



MI-CW4209

Michigan Crop Weather

October 19, 2009

Cold Temperatures

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending October 18, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.03 inch in the central Lower Peninsula to 0.21 inch in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 13 degrees below normal in the southwest, south central and southeast Lower Peninsula to 10 degrees below normal in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Temperatures were as low as 17 degrees in the western Upper Peninsula. Scattered precipitation and below normal temperatures further delayed the dry down process for field crops; growers anticipate a late corn harvest. October frosts and extended periods of cool to cold temperatures ended maturity for corn in many areas. Growers were chopping immature corn for silage. Field activities for the week included chopping corn for silage, planting winter wheat, and harvesting apples, grapes, soybeans and sugarbeets.

Field Crops

Continued cold conditions, and some snow in the northwest, did not aid farmers in drying down of crops. However, some harvest occurred. **Wheat** planting continued as fields were harvested and conditions allowed. Emergence continued on early planted fields. **Corn** will be harvested in some areas as hi-moisture. Other farmers were waiting on warmer weather to dry the crop. Corn for silage was nearing completion in other areas. **Soybean** harvest was underway, but some beans were small, in the Thumb. In the southeast, a killing freeze on October 11 damaged part of the crop. **Sugarbeet** harvest continued. Michigan sugar was in the process of making permanent piles. **Dry bean** harvest was winding down in the Thumb.

Soil moisture for week ending 10/18/09

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	0	4	83	13
Subsoil	1	10	83	6

Crop condition for week ending 10/18/09

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	2	8	33	46	11
Corn	4	12	27	46	11
Dry beans	11	17	32	31	9
Pasture	3	15	40	31	11
Soybeans	2	11	30	45	12

Fruit

A large apple crop continued to create challenges for growers as they worked to harvest varieties in a timely manner. Some fruit is expected to remain unharvested. In the southwest, the lack of markets for **apples** was a growing concern among growers. In the Grand Rapids area, growers continued to fill bins with Jonagold, Jonathan, Golden Delicious and Red Delicious. In the northwest, growers wrapped up harvest of Honeycrisp, Gala and Empire varieties. Growers in the east were picking many varieties including Ida Red and Fuji. **Grape** harvest continued in the southwest. An abundant Concord crop has been well behind maturity progress. In the northwest, cold temperatures slowed the ripening process in grapes; frost damage was found on both foliage and fruit.

Vegetables

Despite the cool weather, rain and frosty mornings, tourists continued turning out to enjoy the fall and buy cider and baked goods along with **pumpkins** and **winter squash**. However, several more hard frosts in southern Michigan during the past week brought an end to what remained of warm season vegetable harvest. Growers are now focusing efforts on removing plastic row covers, tomato stakes, and drip irrigation tape from fields, tilling under plant residues from the season, and planting winter cover crops. In the East Central region, **cabbage** and other cole crops are still on the market as well as fall decorative commodities such as **corn stalks**, and root and bulb crops like **carrots**, **onions** and **potatoes**. Pumpkin growers reported some green fruit still in the fields that may not be harvested.

Crop progress for week ending 10/18/09

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, third cutting	94	90	94	97
All hay, fourth cutting	54	45	52	61
Apples, harvested	61	50	76	81
Corn, dent	96	94	100	100
Corn, mature	69	61	95	96
Corn, harvested	3	3	23	27
Corn silage, harvested	92	83	99	99
Dry beans, harvested	79	67	91	94
Potatoes, harvested	81	62	81	78
Soybeans, dropping leaves	99	93	100	98
Soybeans, harvested	28	7	69	61
Sugarbeets, harvested	22	15	18	19
Winter wheat, planted	53	35	81	79
Winter wheat, emerged	23	19	37	40

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 10/18/09 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2009	2008	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	57	21		1,852	1,995		0.17	1.53	4.20	16.17		
Marquette	50	21		1,701	1,865		0.17	1.53	4.20	18.22		
Stephenson	53	26		2,101	2,324		0.20	2.01	5.68	18.84		
Western UP	57	17	-12	1,832	1,950	2,000	0.16	1.60	4.03	17.19	21.36	2.57
Cornell	49	25		1,923	2,187		0.22	1.92	4.20	16.51		
Sault St Marie	49	27		1,726	1,905		0.21	1.43	2.84	16.05		
Eastern UP	49	19	-10	1,710	1,909	1,759	0.21	2.02	4.24	18.61	20.43	2.57
Beulah	50	27		2,142	2,525		0.17	1.18	3.44	21.30		
Lake City	50	19		2,029	2,355		0.04	0.96	4.03	22.30		
Old Mission	50	29		2,028	2,414		0.24	1.33	4.13	16.47		
Pellston	50	21		1,905	2,234		0.17	1.26	4.12	16.54		
Northwest	50	19	-11	1,977	2,317	2,292	0.14	1.16	4.17	17.51	19.74	2.75
Alpena	51	25		2,023	2,338		0.17	1.04	4.66	23.71		
Houghton Lake	49	18		2,051	2,403		0.01	0.78	2.84	20.08		
Rogers City	50	22		1,980	2,308		0.13	0.88	3.32	24.49		
Northeast	51	18	-12	2,011	2,334	2,214	0.11	0.91	3.55	21.65	19.44	2.40
Fremont	52	25		2,336	2,624		0.03	0.85	4.69	19.63		
Hart	51	24		2,198	2,511		0.10	0.66	2.94	19.81		
Muskegon	51	28		2,550	2,677		0.05	0.80	3.84	18.63		
West Central	58	20	-11	2,318	2,567	2,509	0.06	0.64	2.93	19.43	19.86	2.94
Alma	52	26		2,389	2,733		0.05	0.95	2.42	21.63		
Big Rapids	52	25		2,209	2,584		0.04	0.96	2.19	22.27		
Central	52	24	-11	2,302	2,645	2,592	0.03	0.83	2.38	20.33	20.48	2.59
Bad Axe	52	24		2,246	2,632		0.05	1.10	2.79	19.27		
Pigeon	51	26		2,214	2,539		0.02	1.02	2.81	19.46		
Saginaw	51	26		2,464	2,822		0.04	0.79	2.07	18.31		
Standish	52	21		2,193	2,485		0.00	0.92	3.02	18.82		
East Central	52	21	-12	2,238	2,644	2,608	0.04	1.02	2.80	19.85	18.25	2.41
Fennville	51	29		2,414	2,703		0.15	1.12	4.47	23.40		
Grand Rapids	51	27		2,683	3,036		0.01	1.23	3.13	24.75		
Holland	52	31		2,781	3,068		0.04	1.00	5.48	36.54		
South Bend, IN	52	32		2,831	3,164		0.17	1.01	3.08	24.81		
Watervliet	52	30		2,615	2,898		0.10	0.96	4.05	22.10		
Southwest	53	27	-13	2,627	2,919	2,850	0.10	0.92	3.94	23.43	21.30	2.99
Belding	52	24		2,352	2,694		0.01	1.01	3.08	21.52		
Coldwater	53	25		2,713	2,922		0.10	1.00	3.07	20.90		
Lansing	50	27		2,533	2,917		0.02	0.84	1.87	26.32		
South Central	53	24	-13	2,483	2,843	2,798	0.05	1.02	2.86	23.00	20.57	2.41
Detroit	52	29		2,914	3,243		0.01	1.02	2.28	21.73		
Flint	51	23		2,491	2,955		0.02	0.75	2.07	24.50		
Romeo	54	29		2,496	2,806		0.01	0.91	2.21	20.97		
Tipton	54	30		2,595	2,933		0.02	1.01	4.24	22.78		
Toledo, OH	53	27		2,908	3,219		0.17	1.36	4.41	23.36		
Southeast	54	19	-13	2,613	3,002	2,796	0.07	0.97	2.62	20.98	19.48	2.33

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.